



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Hello colleagues

This weekend we'll be able to take the smallest step towards life as we knew it before COVID-19. Who would have thought that we'd be so looking forward to being able to travel 50km from home, go for a hike in a national park, or have a picnic with our family.

Despite these new freedoms, all other restrictions remain in place, and we all need to stick to social distancing.

Queensland Health have put together a great [list of questions and answers about staying home and going out in Queensland](#) under these new restrictions, which you may like to share with your staff and clients.

If you still have an enquiry about the Chief Health Officer's Public Health Directions and how it relates to a specific aspect of your work, you can head to a new [online portal](#).

This online portal can be used for all:

- requests for exemptions from Directions
- enquiries seeking clarity or explanation of the Directions
- other queries relating to the Directions.

Human rights and COVID-19

Despite the extraordinary circumstances created by COVID-19 we must continue to ensure decision making is proportionate and compatible with human rights in accordance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*. It's important to consider three key points when making decisions:

1. Identify the human rights of clients when making decisions about them, as well as the rights of other persons involved.
2. Identify the impact of decisions and whether the decision is compatible with human rights.
3. If you are likely to limit human rights, you need to show why any limitation was necessary, reasonable, proportionate and justified.

A range of resources are available to help organisations build their human rights knowledge and capability, including the Queensland Government's [human rights website](#) and the [Queensland Human Rights Commission](#).

The Commission is offering free [webinars](#) (weekly until the end of June), [online modules](#) and resources for [assessing acts and decisions for compatibility](#).

Daily COVID-19 stakeholder bulletins

The Queensland Government publishes a daily (Monday to Friday) COVID-19 stakeholder bulletin, which includes an overview of key developments for the past 24 hours, as well as Public Health advice, and updated information on government services and financial and community assistance.

The bulletins are available on the Queensland Government's [COVID-19 website](#).



COVIDSafe app

The Australian Government has launched the COVIDSafe app to help reduce the spread of coronavirus through early notification of possible exposure.

It uses technology to automate and improve what our health officials currently do manually. It will speed up the process of identifying people who have been in close contact with someone diagnosed with coronavirus.

COVIDSafe only keeps contact information for 21 days. This covers the maximum incubation period for the virus and the time it takes for someone to be tested for COVID-19. You can find out more information, including details on data privacy [here](#).

You can download the app via the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

Moving into recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has ushered in so many changes to the way we work. It's shown that some long-held beliefs, procedures, practices and lines of communication we thought couldn't be shifted, can shift and deliver a more effective and desirable result. Our priorities have changed.

As our community and economy moves into recovery, we have the opportunity to re-set so many aspects of how we work. We've uncovered so many strengths in this new way of working, and I am keen that we keep these once we get to the other side of the pandemic.

In the weeks and months to come, I'll be interested to hear your views on what we take forward into our new business as usual.

Thank you once again for your outstanding work in supporting Queensland's children, young people, families and women through these unsettling times.

As always, keep yourself, family and friends safe.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women